Gross Domestic Product at constant (1993-94) prices

(Rs. in crore)

1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
442494	461964	478468	522583	516020

(b) to (d) According to the 55th Round of the quinquennial Survey on employment and unemployment (July 1999-June 2000) conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), the estimated number of employed persons, based on current daily status, in the Agriculture Sector increased marginally from 190.72 million in 1993-94 to 190.94 million in 1999-2000. According to Planning Commission's Report of Special Group on Targeting Ten Million Employment Opportunities Per Year over the Tenth Plan period, the potential of additional employment generation from different programmes and schemes in the Agriculture Sector is 3.55 million man-years by the end of Tenth Plan.

Compensation to drought hit farmers by CACP

573. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) to recommend to pay the compensation in cash and other forms to the farmers, in view of drought;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the farmers from whom Union Government do not purchase grains at all would be deprived from getting this benefit, in case the Commission announces bonus apart from MSP; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government decides on Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices

(CACP), the views of the State Government and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors considered important for fixation of support prices. Keeping in view the drought last year, the Government had announced the special drought relief prices ranging from Rs.5/- to Rs.20/- per quintal over and above the MSP for different kharif and rabi crops of 2002-03 season.

(c) and (d) In case the Government announces bonus apart from MSP, it is payable to the farmers selling their produce to the designated Central and State Agencies.

Shortage of seeds in drought hit States

574. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers in drought hit areas of Andhra Pradedsh and other States this year suffered from acute shortage of seeds and supply of spurious seeds for the next crop besides problems of credit and the like;

(b) whether some of the agitating farmers had lost their lives if so, how many had lost their lives or were injured in firing; and

(c) what steps have been taken to come to the rescue of the farmers, by providing adequate and proper inputs for next crops, especially in the drought hit areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):(a) The overall availability of certified/quality seeds for Kharif-2003 has been assessed at 60.69 lakh quintals against the requirement of 44.52 lakh quintals. The details of crop-wise requirement and availability of certified/quality seeds for Kharif-2003 is enclosed in Statement-I. (*See* below) Relief measures extended to the farmers are given in the Statement-II.(*See* below)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Funds have been provided for agriculture in put assistance to the farmers in the drought affected areas.